After gaining his law degree from the University of Peshawer, Mr. Hayat Ali Shah started his career as a lawyer in the province of Khyber Pakhtun Khwa, the then North West Frontier Province (NWFP). He successfully practiced law for ten years (1981–1990), following which he was appointed as Additional District and Sessions Judge (AD&SJ) by the Peshawar High Court, Peshawar (NWFP). As AD&SJ, Mr. Hayat Ali Shah served in various stations including Nowshehra, Mardan, Bannu, and Malakand. He was promoted as District and Sessions Judge (D&SJ) in 1997, and served in various stations and positions. The stations he served as D&SJ at include Karak, Mardan, Swat, Peshawar, Abbottabad, and as Judge Anti-Terrorism Court between 2008–2012. The positions that Mr. Hayat Ali Shah served as D&SJ include Registrar Peshawer High Court, Director General KPK Judicial Academy, Peshawer (Feb. 2012 – March 2015), and Administrative Judge Ehtesab Court, KPK (March 2015 – June 2017).

Mr. Hayat Ali Shah retired from judicial service in 2017. After his retirement, he undertook a number of consultancies for Peshawer High Court and the Law Department Government of KPK, on key areas including updating Peshawer High Court's Ministerial Establishment Rules, prepared service structure for the High Court and District Judiciary, framed Rules of Business for the Secretariat of the District Judiciary, and developed concept notes on, *inter alia*, Capacity Building of drafting and legislation wing of the law department, of the district attorneys and government departments regarding drafting and litigation etc.

Being a seasoned judicial officer, Mr. Hayat Ali Shah brings a rich experience and value to the work of Federal Judicial Academy. He has diverse experience and skills in adjudication, leadership and management, institution development and human resource management, project management, drafting rules and training manuals development, and Alternative Dispute Resolution etc.